

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 1, 2023

Public Safety Finance and Policy

509 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Moller:

I am writing to you regarding House File 15 (HF 15) and the National Rifle Association's (NRA) position on this piece of legislation. I would like to express our strong opposition to HF 15.

The NRA has a number of concerns regarding some of the policies set forth in the bill. The NRA believes that no one should be deprived of a fundamental right without due process of law. HF 15 allows for the confiscation of firearms before a respondent even has an opportunity to be heard by a judge. The bill allows for low standards of proof for the seizure of firearms and seizure can be based on uncorroborated hearsay information.

HF 15 only confiscates firearms and no other items that an individual could use to inflict harm, if in fact they truly were a danger to themselves or others. Moreover, there is nothing in the bill about the respondent getting mental health treatment or even evaluated by a mental health professional.

Once firearms are confiscated there is no obligation they be transported and stored properly or by the least restrictive mean, e.g., transferring to a friend or relative as allowed in other chapters of Minnesota statutes. This bill will lead to the seizure of firearms with no clear path on their return.

Finally, existing statutes on civil commitments are sufficient to address those who are a danger to themselves or others. Those existing statutes, when properly applied, do much more to keep people safe since they remove a harmful individual from all dangerous objects and get them the mental health treatment they need.

For these reasons, and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of HB 15.

Sincerely,

Brian Gosch
Minnesota State Director